

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1796
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DURBAN
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4111

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH CRATICIZES ED COLLEAGUES BUT SAYS
MOVEMENT TO MAJORITY IS TAKING PLACE

REF: PRETORIA 4073

1. ON JULY 18, SMITH HELD A SALISBURY PRESS CONFERENCE
DURING WHICH HE COVERED ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. AT ONE
POINT HE REPORTEDLY CONCEDED THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE
LACK OF PROGRESS IN ENDING THE WAR. HE SAID THE BLACK
SIGNATORIES TO THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT "HAVE NOT YET DELIVERED
THE GOODS... AS FAAR AS THE CEASEFIRE IS CONCERED, THIS
IS IN (THEIR) HANDS." SMITH SAID WHIES HAD MADE CONCESSIONS
AND WERE NOW WAITING FOR THEIR "QUID PRO QUO".

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2. SMITH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MOVEMENT TOWARDS MAJORITY RULE
WAS GOING ON. HE SAID THE NEW CONSITUTION WOULD BE READY FOR
FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE "NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS",
AFTER WHICH THE WHITE REFERENDUM WOULD BE HELD.
THEN, HE SAID, THEY WOULD GO AHEAD WITH THE ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE
ELECTIONS. HE SAID ALSO A COMMITTEE
WAS ACTIVELY WORKING "TO GIVE IMPETUS TO THE WORK

SO FAR DONE ON BRINGING ABOUT AN END TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE, SMITH TOLD REPORTERS THAT "ON THE EVIEENCE AT THE MOMENT, IT WOULD BE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE COUNTRY TO ATTEND SUCH A CONFERENCE." THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WOULD ONLY GO TO SUCH TALKS IF IT THOUGHT THEY HAD SOME CHANCE OF ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE CURRENT CONSITUTIONAL IMPASSE.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENCY SCANDAL (PRETORIA 4055), SMITH REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT SIX PERSONS, INCLUDING TWO CIVIL SERVANTS, HAD SWINDLED ABOUT DOLLARS 1.5 MILLIION. HE SAID THIS WAS PART OF THE "SANCTIONS BUSTING GAME" AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO RECOVER ALL THE MONEY. HE DENIED THAT ANY RHODESIAN FRONT MEMBERS WERE INVOLVED.
EDMONDSON

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